Damaged Love

by Oceana Mist

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Summary: In 24 hours Hiccup loses almost everything he holds dear to him, now he must take on his duty as chief, alone. Unable to deal with the pain he runs away with Toothless only to run into a strange girl with healing powers, but can she heal is broken heart?

1. Nightmares

**So this is my first shot at a ROTBTD FF. I know this beginning seems rushed but it's meant to be all over the place and rushed to reflect Hiccup's emotions, I know many of you will probably pick up on that but for those of you who don't please don't review saying it's rushed. It's purposeful. Enjoy! **

Hiccup stared hopelessly at the lifeless forms of Stormfly, Astrid and his father. Toothless lay badly wounded, his father's dragon no where to be found. The storm came out of nowhere, fifty foot waves crashed on the cliffs of Berk. The tornado had caught Hiccup, Astrid, Stoick and their dragons and led them god knows where. Hiccup screamed in terror gripping Astrid, they had been together since the young age of eleven and in one perfect afternoon in one perfect storm she was gone, and his father... Stoick left this world with her.

When he gained his strength he pulled away from Astrid and Stoick and ran towards Toothless who was fighting to breathe. A gaping wound dripped purple blood down his head. Hiccup grasped him and cried,

"Not you too bud, come on stay with me." Tears were streaming down his face. Toothless let out a groan on the dying would understand. Hiccup saw the rock Toothless had landed on and where he had hit his head. Not having the slightest idea how to help him, Hiccup took off his shirt soaked it in the cold salt water and applied pressure to Toothless' wound attempting to stop the bleeding. Toothless watched Hiccup helplessly, he would have let go by now, but he couldn't leave

Hiccup, not now, not with his only family and his only love taken from him in a heart beat.

All night Hiccup stayed up tending to Toothless' wound, when it finally stopped bleeding and the swelling seemed to go down a bit, he got up and sat in front of Toothless who was fighting to stay awake. Hiccup put his hands on either side of Toothless' face, sure he'd lose him in a matter of hours.

"We've... we've been through so much together bud." Hiccup choked out, he wanted his dragon to be at peace. "When we first met... I wanted to kill you, I wanted to be the awesome son of Stoick -" Hiccup sucked in a breath. "- the only thing I could think to do was to kill a dragon. When I saw the opportunity I saw how you were just as scared as I was. And now I'm terrified of losing you too, but Toothless, I'll be okay bud, if you need to let go..." Hiccup lost it and put his head in his hands. Toothless' heart went out to his best friend, they were bonded for life and he had no intention of letting go, leaving Hiccup alone and heartbroken.

With all the strength he could muster Toothless nudged Hiccup and managed to lick him a little. He was trying to convey that he wasn't giving up. Not yet.

"I love you bud." Hiccup curled up in Toothless' warm body and fell asleep, there was nothing he could do anymore. He'd be useless if he was exhausted when daylight struck.

It was the worst night Hiccup had ever had... storm clouds, tornadoes, blood and death haunted his dreams.

"Come on Hiccup, don't be a baby! When did a little rain ever stop you?" Astrid teased a light smile playing at her features as she jumped onto Stormfly. Hiccup sensed Toothless and Stormfly's uneasiness.

_ "I don't know Astrid those clouds don't look too good." Hiccup hesitated. Astrid rolled her eyes. _

_ "They look fine! Now come on, Stormfly's itching to stretch her wings." His heart melted as he saw the eager look on her face and he just couldn't say no. She stared at him with a puppy dog look on her face, he knew she'd go either way, he might as well be there to protect her. Although, Astrid didn't exactly need protecting. Hiccup chuckled and patted Toothless on the back._

_ "Fine you win m'lady, as always. I'm going to tell my Dad I'll miss 'how to be chief 101' today. Can you get Toothless' tail ready?" Astrid smiled triumphantly as she hopped off Stormfly and grabbed Toothless' tail. Hiccup sprinted to the center where he knew his dad would be waiting. _

_ "Dad?" Hiccup poked his head in... Even at sixteen Hiccup was still entirely intimidated by his father. _

_ "Hiccup! You're late!" Stoick bellowed. Hiccup winced._

_ "Actually Dad, I'm going to have to miss today's lesson..." Stoick narrowed his eyes, crossing his arms._

_ "And why would that be?" Hiccup took a sharp breath in. He had to come up with an excuse on why he'd be flying Toothless in this horrendous weather... and as often happens with Hiccup he thought of something immediately._

_ "Astrid and I have some Dragon Training we want to do-"_

_ "Dragon Training? I thought you lot finished that years ago?" Stoick asked, not quite believing his son. _

_ "No we did! We just want to uh, practice flying in harsh weather conditions... Never know when you'll be caught up in a storm, you know?" Hiccup's nerves got the better of him and his father's lesson on speaking with a persuasive tone went right out the window. Stock huffed, not quite ready to have this discussion with Hiccup._

_ "Sit down son." Stoick asked almost politely._

_ "But Dad Astrid-" _

_ "Sit down Hiccup." Hiccup sat. Stoick paced back and forth and finally came to a stop two feet away from Hiccup._

_ "Look son, you and Astrid have been spending a lot of... alone time together." Hiccup raised an eyebrow._

_ "We've always taken rides together Dad." Hiccup wasn't sure where his father was going with this._

_ "Yes, you have. But now you're older you see and you're relationship-" Hiccup's eyes widened and he stood up fast shaking his hands. He absolutely wasn't ready for this conversation, not today at least._

_ "Dad I swear you have nothing to worry about. Why don't you come with us if you aren't so sure... I know you're worried about the uh... 'weather'." Hiccup made air quotes around the word weather. Stoick contemplated it, and he was also genuinely worried about the weather so he decided to go. He thumped Hiccup on the back, almost knocking him over._

_ "Let's go then." Stoick walked out of the town center and Hiccup sighed... Astrid wasn't going to be too happy. _

Hiccup awoke with a start, he had heard footsteps, and the crack of a branch. As his eyes adjusted, he took in his surroundings for the first time. He was on a beach, right behind him was a forest, and the weather was... warm. Almost like it was summer. He bolted up and checked Toothless' wound praying he was still alive. Toothless was sleeping soundly, and as Hiccup felt his head, there was no swelling, no blood, no wound at all actually. He was confused as ever but was also so happy he could cry. He kissed Toothless' head and let the poor dragon sleep, he'd been through enough. Hiccup turned around and was met with the gruesome sight. Astrid, Stoick and Stormfly. Hiccup's heart sank into the pit of his stomach but also leapt through his throat. He couldn't breathe, he just collapsed into the sand. The only thing he could think was how he was going to get them back to Berk. Luckily Toothless' prosthetic tail had survived. He knew there was no way he could get Stormfly back.

Hiccup looked for anything he could use to dig. There was nothing. He screamed in frustration. The only thing Hiccup could do was send the dragon off to sea. He stitched together a small raft made from logs and the straps on his boot, with adolescents fading away Hiccup became stronger and was easily able to get Stormfly onto the raft and send him off to sea.

Hiccup began to feel numb. Shock was setting in. He couldn't fathom how drastically his life had changed in the past twenty four hours, and going back to Berk seemed like an impossible task. But it had to be done. His father would have wanted to be buried, properly, as a chief. Hiccup realized suddenly he couldn't bring Astrid back to Berk, that wasn't what she would have wanted, in fact he knew that wasn't what she wanted. They talked about it once.

"Hiccup... I'm worried." Astrid mumbled as they sat on the cliffs of Berk snuggled up against Toothless. Hiccup sat up staring at her.

_ "What are you worried about?" He asked brushing some hair off her cheek. She stared him dead in the eyes and said,_

_ "You." Hiccup was taken aback._

_ "Why are you worried about me?" Astrid stood up hugging herself staring at the sea off the cliffs. Hiccup looked at Toothless in complete confusion. After a moment or so he stood up. "Astrid why are you worried about me?" He asked. She huffed and stared at him. _

_ "That stunt you pulled with Toothless today? You both could have easily died, in fact the chances of you both surviving that were slim to none." Hiccup huffed._

_ "Astrid, nothing was going to happen I was with Toothless." He put a hand on her shoulder which she brushed off._

_ "Hiccup you always say that! Toothless can't protect you from everything! One day, one day you'll misjudge a second and-" He pulled her into a hug. She had just lost her parents a year ago and all she could think of was death, she'd lost her spark of risk. She grabbed him for dear life hysterical. She collapsed into him and sat them both down, he stroked her hair. _

_ "Astrid, look at me." She looked up, her eyes screamed broken. He put her face in his hands._

_ "I would never do anything to endanger Toothless, maybe I'll misjudge the danger for my sake, but I would never misjudge it for Toothless and that you can count on. That's why I always say I'll be fine when Toothless is with me. I always make sure whatever we do, he can handle. And you know he'd never let anything happen to me." She sniffed wiping away her tears._

_ "I know." She put her hands on Hiccup's. She looked up at him. "Can you promise me something?" He wiped away a stray tear._

_ "Anything." _

_ "When I go, I want to be with Stormfly." Astrid nodded towards her sleeping dragon. It was a terrifying thought to Hiccup, the thought of Astrid... dead... he couldn't bare to think about it, so he simply

agreed and held her close. He never wanted to lose her. _

Hiccup hit himself in the head. The raft hadn't quite sunk yet, He dove in the water and pulled Stormfly back to shore. He dragged himself over to Astrid and put her head in his lap. There was so much blood. He held her close and just cried and screamed. He couldn't understand how this had happened. He stroked her hair and stared at her. This was it. This was his goodbye.

"Astrid... I have loved you for five years, and I never _never_ thought we'd be apart. Unless you found someone better, which I always kind of expected. I can't imagine how I'm going to go on without you. You are everything to me." Hiccup couldn't stop the tears from flowing he sucked in a sharp breath and tried to get his breathing under control. "I promise you that I'll go flying every day to our spot up on the cliffs and I'll never never stop loving you." He closed her eyes and picked her up, he buckled under the weight of his heavy heart and Astrid's lifeless form.

Toothless had woken up and gotten up just in time to give Hiccup something to fall against. Hiccup turned around and leaned into Toothless for a moment.

"Thanks bud." He placed Astrid on the raft with Stormfly and shoved them off to sea. He couldn't stand the pain anymore and he simply fell. He screamed trying to get the pain out, but he had completely lost his voice, there was no sound left in him. Toothless let out a plasma blast to the raft and they watched their dearest friends and Hiccup's dearest love burn and sink into the ocean where they would eternally lay.

Hiccup took his sandy shirt and rinsed it off. Even in death he was intimidated by Stoick. He knew the customs of a chief's burial, he knew he had to get Stoick back to Berk. He took the blanket he kept in Toothess' sadle and covered his father. He didn't know a person was capable of crying so much.

Toothless didn't know one person could feel so much pain at once. He nudged Hiccup away from his father and curled himself around Hiccup, he so desperately wanted to keep the pain out, but he couldn't all he could do was hope his friend would fall asleep and dream a sweeter dream. Hiccup eventually drifted off into a painful sleep filled with nightmares and memories.

I know such a sad way to start this FF, but at least it can't get any worse! Or can it... You'll have to wait and see. Review tell me what you think!

2. Strength

** I'm glad you all liked the beginning to this story, it didn't seem fitting to have a few happy chapters only to crush Hiccup and all your feels three chapters in. So i'm doing things a little differently, I hope you like this chapter!**

Hiccup awoke from a sleep filled with nightmares and memories. Toothless had been up for quite some time, and was finally able to stretch his legs and wings. Getting up straight away he accidentally knocked Hiccup over.

"Hey bud be careful!" Hiccup laughed, scratching the dragon behind his ears, then he saw the body wrapped up in a blanket. The realization struck too fast, too hard and Hiccup fainted. Toothless nudged him away worried sick, he couldn't lose Hiccup. Blinking slowly Hiccup took into view his surroundings, realization crept up on him like the venom of a snake, slow but effective. He stood up, tears clouding his vision. Another detail he'd forgotten about the previous night hit him, Toothless' wound... it was completely healed with no explanation. Obviously the salt water he drenched the wound in didn't have any special properties, or Astrid and Stormfly wouldn't be dead.

Hiccup walked around to see his dragon's face and held Toothless' head in his hands.

"Bud I'm so glad you're okay, but how are you okay?" Hiccup leaned his head against the dragons who was very eager to eat something but in his own way felt the moment was special as well. All of a sudden he heard voices,

"No I'm serious it was a real life dragon mother! There were a few people too I think they were sleeping. A girl and two men. Come on hurry up!" The voice of a female urgently rushed whom ever she was talking too. Hiccup's eyes widened, he was certainly far from home and there was no way he could explain Toothless... nor his father. He grabbed Stoick and laid him securely on Toothless, hopped on and flew away - night fury speed.

When the girl reached the beach Hiccup and Toothless were long gone.

"Now what was that about a dragon dear?" An old yet beautiful woman with black greying curly hair crossed her arms - clearly annoyed. The girl stopped dead in her tracks.

"But... but they were right here! How is this possible..." The old woman rolled her eyes.

"What I want to know is why you left the tower in the first place?" She was beyond angry. The only reason she came was because legend told that one sip of dragon's blood would secure eternal life, then she could be rid of this girl for good. The girl's eyes widened, she knew her mother loved her... but she also knew her rathe. She turned towards her mother carefully, with her bright green doe eyes staring right at her.

"I'm sorry mother, perhaps I was sleep walking!" She tried. Her mother narrowed her eyes.

"Well we'll have to bolt the doors and windows when you sleep - just in case." She smirked and dragged the girl off to the beautiful tower that imprisoned her.

"That was a close one bud." Hiccup sighed in relief, briefly turning to get a glimpse of the girl before they sped off. All he managed to see was yards and yards and yards of golden hair. He blinked but before he knew it they were off... heading towards Berk. "Just head north bud." Hiccup knew Toothless could fly straight on his own until they hit the cliffs of Berk. He didn't know where they were but he

figured, even at night fury speed, it would take a long time to get back. So he focused his attention on his father. He couldn't say his goodbyes... that wasn't proper. Stoick would want this done properly.

"Oh Dad." Hiccup sighed. He used the blanket to take the blood stains off his face and hands. Tears rolled down his face, saying that there was a hole in his heart would be an understatement. It felt like he didn't have a heart entirely. He felt as though he was being consumed by the darkest edges of this world, yet he knew he had responsibilities to Berk, the people and dragons that lay within it. He couldn't bare to look at his father's lifeless form any more, so he focused his attention on the now setting sun. When you face death, time is no longer kept properly as your entire being is unbalanced trying to bear the weight of your heavy heart.

Finally around dusk Hiccup saw the outlines of the cliffs. Toothless and he had the cliffs mapped out in their minds, they didn't need the light of day to know how to fly. Easily skirting them he saw the torches of the town and heard the cries of the people. He closed his eyes and blinked back tears, the scrawny emotional guy he used to be? He needed to bury him... at least in front of the town. _I'll just get it out and run to Astr-_ Hiccup's heart sank the only people in this world who truly cared about him were gone, and now he had to tell everyone.

Gobber was the first one to greet Hiccup and see the gruesome sight. All Hiccup could do was stare. Gobber wanted to break down then and there, but he had to be strong, for Hiccup.

"All right ye fools get out of the way! And quiet down! Hiccup... Hiccup needs to explain." Hiccup closed his eyes and took a deep breath, one that cut the icy air into the hole where his heart used to be.

"Peo... People of Berk-" Hiccup choked out, "Tonight, tonight we say goodbye... goodbye to... Stoick, my father." Hiccup could barely get the words out he almost fainted again but Toothless was there to keep him steady. Gobber looked to Snotlout.

"Go find Astrid, Hiccup needs her." Hiccup stared up at him and shook his head tears streaming down his face, Gobber took a step back, not her too. Hiccup looked into the eyes of his dragon and that gave him some strength - however fleeting. He stood up on Toothless.

"Yesterday Astrid my father and I went flying, we needed practice in flying in harsh weather conditions. We didn't realize how bad they really were. A tornado hit us out of no where, I don't remember what happened next except waking up and seeing Astr... Astrid and my... father... dead." Hiccup couldn't take it anymore. He fainted the world for a blissful hour - went dark. No nightmares, no memories, no holes, no pain, just peaceful darkness.

When he awoke Gobber was sitting on the edge of his bed, holding water, Hiccup went to reach for it and noticed a sling around his arm. Gobber's eyes were red.

"I guess in all the commotion with the chief and Astrid... you failed to notice your own arm was broken." Hiccup grabbed the water with the

other hand. All the pain flooded back to him, but with it came a bit of numbness. There were no more tears to be cried and no more screaming to be yelled. He knew he had to step up. He looked at Gobber.

"Gobber I don't know what to do. I don't know how to be a leader... I have to though. You were my father's right hand man. Help me." Hiccup pleaded. Gobber embraced him in a hug.

"Hiccup, you are a leader. More so than any of us. But I of course I'll help ya." He grabbed his shoulder protectively.

The funeral arrangements were made and executed beautifully. Hiccup had one job. To tell a personal story about his father. I twas customary that family members share something about their loved one. Chief or no chief. Hiccup and Toothless stood on the cliffs of Berk, wind howling loudly lighting off in the distance. He looked towards the ocean and a heavy weight threatened to drag him down. All he could do was draw from his heart, the best memory he had of his father.

"Hiccup! What are you doing, you could get hurt!" Stoick chased Hiccup around the cliffs, six year old Hiccup didn't know any better and laughed spreading his arms out, the wind was blowing through his hair sun in his face the sea spray occasionally misting his gentle features. Finally Stoick caught up to him and picked him up, and sat him down on his lap.

_ "Hiccup don't scare me like that! You can't run too close to the edge of the cliffs you could fall over." Hiccup was rather tired from running around so much and snuggled up into his father's warm hides._

_ "Daddy I want to fly." Hiccup then started crying._

_ "Son why are you crying?" Stoick was terribly worried he'd upset Hiccup, he wasn't good at being a Dad, chief now there was something he knew._

_ "I want to fly but I won't ever get to! I don't have wings. It's really sad how we're stuck on the ground." Hiccup pouted. Stoick smiled, it was a simple child's wish, he knew how to hands this._

_ "Hiccup. Our bodies are stuck on earth but that's so we can make a difference! The sky and the ocean are already perfect, it's here on land that Thor and all the other God's need us to help them. But the one thing they can't keep grounded is your mind." Stoick touched a finger to Hiccup's forehead, he was staring at him in complete wonder._

"_You can expand your mind forever! To the darkest depths of the ocean all the way up in the sky to Thor. Your mind can fly Hiccup, and one day you'll be an awesome chief, and you'll be able to make a difference on land too. That way your heart can soar as well." There was never truer words to be spoken between a father and a son._

"Little did my dad know, I would get to fly. And so would he. We all would get the chance. I wouldn't be the person I am today without him. The thought... the thought of him not being here is horrific.

But I know when I look to the darkest depths of the ocean and the heavens to Thor my father is in every speck of the universe watching over all of us. He's the reason we'll keep flying." Hiccup somehow managed to speak it out like a true leader. Not a speck of tears fell from his eyes. The village gained comfort from Hiccup's speech. It convinced them that he was truly fit and ready to lead them, in whatever may come.

Stoick was sent to sea that day. Astrid's name was briefly mentioned in passing. She had no family left, only Hiccup. So Hiccup had a private memorial for her on the cilffs, with Snotlout, Ruff, Tuff and Fishlegs. It was quiet, sweet and very intimate. Even Snotlout didn't crack one single joke, they saw the pain on Hiccup's face, and as their chief, they had to respect him.

Come the night one question was still taunting Hiccup. Who had saved Toothless? Whoever they were, he was determined to find them someday and thank them, they saved the one thing in the world he had left. Hiccup fell asleep dreaming of Astrid, Stoick, and golden blonde hair. Tomorrow he'd take over as chief, he'd have to put all his feelings behind him and be the strong leader his people needed. He'd do Stoick proud.

**I know so much to come, but don't get your hopes up yet, Hiccup and this 'mystery girl' won't be meeting yet. But there's definitely lots coming, I'll give you a hint... Snotlout angers Hiccup. Please leave a review and tell me what you think! **

3. Leadership

**I know I just updated this story but I couldn't wait to write more, as I'm afraid I may not be able to update it until Saturday or Sunday, so I wrote you guys an extra long chapter. I hope you like it! **

"Hiccup wake up!" Gobber was shaking him. He opened his eyes slowly blinking back the pain that still gripped at his heart. He yawned and threw his legs over the side of his bed noticing rather quickly that Toothless wasn't there.

"Gobber where's Toothless?" Gobber motioned towards the door.

"I let the poor thing out. Ya slept pretty late, Stoick used to get up with the sun and start his chiefly duties, ya better start doing that Hiccup." Hiccup's eyes widened. He was chief now. He had actual responsibilities to take care of. He had his three days of mourning, now it was time to shove down the pain forget about Stoick and Astrid and get on with his life at chief, at least until the night.

"What's the first thing I need to do Gobber?" Hiccup asked. Gobber raised his eyebrows.

"What's the first thing ya think ya need to do?" Hiccup peeked outside it was nearing winter, meaning they had to get their food supply up to standards to keep the village fed for the winter.

"Tell everyone to count their livestock and crops and report it back to me so I can see where we are on food for the winter?" Hiccup asked unsure of himself. Gobber smiled patting him on the back motioning

towards the door. Right before he stepped outside he put a hand on Hiccup's shoulder. Turning around Hiccup saw Gobber holding his father's bear pelt. Hiccup narrowed his eyebrows quizzically and looked at Gobber.

"It was Stoick's he'd of... wanted you to have it. A leader down south gave it to him. Said it was the pelt of some Mordue bear or something." Hiccup grabbed it and held it close. It smelled just like his father. Hiccup closed his eyes latching it around his neck. He really was chief now. No going back. Gobber blinked back tears, Stoick was his best friend.

"Alright, I'm ready." Hiccup opened the doors and the entire village stood still. He stared at them.

"Today we need to take count of the food we have, I can feel a storm coming and we need to make sure we have enough food to harsh the winter. I need counts of all the fish, livestock and crops we have as of now. Please report them back to me by noon." Hiccup's confidence didn't waver for a second. It was easier being the chief when the village didn't look at you as the scrawny little screw up. He hadn't been that person in years. Snotlout approached Hiccup.

"What should we do...?" He motioned to Ruff Tuff and Fishlegs. Hiccup looked around there were at least ten other children at least twelve who were ready to start dragon training. He motioned for Fishlegs and Snotlout to follow him into the town center. They looked at each other briefly without Hiccup or Astrid to keep them in check they'd fight it out big time.

"I need the two of you to gather the kids who are at least twelve and start them up on dragon training." Fishlegs and Snotlout looked to each other surprised.

"Us? Are you crazy? Hiccup you're supposed to train everyone!" Fishlegs complained. Hiccup stared at them sadly.

"I'm chief now. I mean I knew one day I would be but I don't have... I don't have someone to share the responsibility with. I was kind of planning on handing over the arena to... to Astrid. But that's not going to happen now. Fishlegs you know everything there is to know on every kind of dragon. Snotlout... you're tough you can discipline the kids and keep them on the right path. I'm trusting you both not to kill each other." Hiccup looked back and forth to the two of them. The three of them stood there.

"Pft I'd be a better teacher than old Fishlegs over here." Snotlout snorted.

"You don't know the first thing about your own dragon let alone the other two hundred." Fishleg's replied. Snotlout shoved him.

"You wanna test that theory Fishbreath!" Fishlegs narrowed his eyes.

"The names. Fishlegs. Not breath. Legs moron." Snotlout's eyes widened.

"Who are you calling a moron?!" The real fighting started. Hiccup got in between both of them. He wasn't quite as strong as Snotlout so he

took a shiner to the eye. Snotlout took a step back.

"Hiccup - I - I'm sorry!" He knew Hiccup was the new chief and he had to show him the same respect [fear] he felt towards Stoick.

"Enough!" Hiccup bellowed. "We all lost our chief and our good friend Astrid two days ago and you can't pull yourselves together enough to help with the new recruits? Forget it I'll find someone else to do it! Just go help count sheep or something. And make sure Ruff & Tuff stay out of trouble." Fishlegs looked down in shame, Snotlout wanted to punch Hiccup but he knew how unwise that'd be.

Storming out of the center Hiccup nearly ran into Ruff and Tuff. He briskly walked passed them not wanting to get involved. Seeing Toothless by the docks he ran down as fast as he could. Toothless would surely eat all the fish they had. The dock workers looked at Hiccup solemnly as he hopped on Toothless.

"Gallord how are we looking on the fish could for the winter?" A surprised dock worker looked up. He went over to the man with the list and ran over to Toothless looking up at Hiccup.

"We're about three hundred short from standards." Hiccup closed his eyes angrily. Since the arrival of dragons on Berk standards had doubled since many people from nearby islands wanted to live in a village protected by dragons.

"I want men readying the ships, we're going to need at least six hundred more. Standards have doubled. Gallord's eyes widened.

"Chief six hundred? That's a lot of fish to catch in a day." Hiccup realized he'd need to get the dragons to help.

"Just start getting the ships ready I'll go get Astrid and have her help me -" Hiccup stopped midsentence as his heart wrenched. "I mean I'll go get Ruffnut and Fishlegs to get some recruits to help catch the fish. Don't worry you'll get it done." Gollard walked away and started yelling orders to get the fishing boats ready. Hiccup sighed. How many more times would he make a slip like that? He knew Astrid usually helped the men fish with Stormfly so she knew Gollard well.

"Hey Gollard!" Hiccup yelled. Gollard turned around with a sad look on her face.

"Astrid uh... well she liked helping you out. I'm sorry that she can't anymore." Gollard gave Hiccup a sad nod.

"She was quite a girl." Gollard yelled back. _That she was_ Hiccup thought_ that she was..._ Wondering if he'd ever find love again.

After getting Ruffnut to grab some young recruits they'd started training a year ago to go help with the fish Hiccup flew over to the farming portion of the island. He hopped off Toothless.

"Okay bud don't eat any of the crops. We need them." Toothless looked at him annoyed and sulked away, Hiccup chuckled the first time he'd smiled in days. He looked for anyone he would know and found a young

girl around age ten. He recognized her as part of the family who was basically in charge of farming for the village.

"Gert!" Hiccup walked over to her. She smiled and gave him a big hug yelling,

"Chief Hiccup!" She had a bit of a crush on him. He got down on his knees so he could look her in the eyes. Hiccup always wanted to do the right thing and look people in the eyes.

"Can you take me to your parents? I have to talk to them about the new standards." She nodded eagerly grabbing his hand and running them through the crop fields. Hiccup remembered being a little kid running through the fields. His mother and father laughing at his clumsiness.

"Hiccup dear be careful!" His mother yelled laughing as he fell onto a sheep. He was only four so he could hardly do any damage but she was a mother and worried about her son. Hiccup laughed sitting down petting the sheep who ba'd and sat next to him.

_ "That's his dinner. He shouldn't make friends with it." Stoick huffed. His mother smiled at Stoick taking his hand._

_ "Hiccup's just a babe Stoick, let him be a child." Stoick huffed angrily. _

_ "By his age I was cracking rocks open with my skull! I swung my first axe at five!" _

_ "He's only four love. And he isn't you. Hiccup's his own person. Let him be who he is." Stoick sighed and walked back to the town center. Hiccup's mother sighed and went to pet the sheep with Hiccup who sat on her lap._

_ "Hiccup look at me son." He stared up at his mother with bright green eyes transfixed. "Promise me you'll always stay true to yourself, can you promise mama that?" Hiccup laughed and tugged at her hair. That was as close to a yes as she was going to get. "Come on love let's go calm down your Dad." She picked up Hiccup who waved goodbye to the sheep._

"Chief hiccup?" Gert's mother looked at him concerned. He shook his head snapping out of his memory.

"Yes I'm sorry, your name is?" He extended his hand shaking Gert's mother's.

"Gertrude. What is this about chief?" He motioned to walk away from the workers and Gert.

"The standards have doubled. I know it must be a lot to take in but the last my father told me you had a surplus of food." Gertrude looked absolutely taken aback.

"Yes we have a surplus but that was our payment for looking after the farming! Stoick never said anything about standard's doubling! This is because of those lousy pests dragons." Gertrude spat. Hiccup wanted to yell at her, but he had to express himself in a calm civil way.

"Actually the dragons eat fish and they can always go fishing without us storing food for them." Gertrude interrupted Hiccup -

"That's not what I mean. People are flocking to Berk because of them." Hiccup sighed.

"Do you have enough surplus for the double standards?" Gertrude narrowed her eyes.

"Yes. We do. And then some but barely more."

"Well you can keep whatever is excess from the double standard and you will of course get your share of crops for the winter. This is a hard transition for all of us. We just need to work together." Gertrude crossed her arms.

"This is the last year we overlook this farming business. Stoick knew how to get things done, not like you. What kind of a name is Hiccup anyway? Oh that's right a weak one." Hiccup wanted to scream at her but he knew he couldn't. He didn't even get the chance to say anything back. She stormed off to complain to her husband. Toothless came bounding over to Hiccup and nudged him. Hiccup jumped on Toothless,

"Come on bud let's go find Gobber." They took off in the direction of the center. Gobber would probably be there moving Hiccup's things into the house above the center. That's where his permanent home would lie.

-3 months earlier somewhere far southeast of Berk-

"But Da I don't want to go to the coldest place in the world just to negotiate a deal!" Merida moaned to her father.

"Merida your mother's having another baby I can't leave the kingdom, you have to negotiate it for me. I trust you lassy." Merida groaned trudging upstairs to pack her few belongings, one or two dresses (with some pants she stole from her brother's who were now her height) her bow and her father's old shirt... back in his thinner days. Before she left the room she realized how frigid Berk would be and she made sure to grab her bear fur coat. She ran into her mother's room to say goodbye.

"Merida darling are you leaving already?" Elinor sat up in bed. Merida sat down on the side of her bed taking her hand.

"Yes mum, I have to go meet with some village leader Stoick to negotiate terms of, can you believe this? **Bringing dragons** here! What are we gonna do with dragons!" Elinor chuckled.

"Your father has some bright ideas for this kingdom, perhaps he just want to keep up with this new kingdom?" Merida shook her head.

"No mum these are vikings! Uncivil vikings!" Elinor shook her head at Merida.

"Don't be so quick to judge dear. You don't quite fit the description of a typical princess. Just be nice. And come home soon so you can meet your new brother or sister." Elinor kissed Merida's head and

sent her off to board the ship.

-Present day-

"Hiccup! I was just eh..." Hiccup looked around to see all of his things scattered across the center floor. It would be pretty hard for either of them to get the things up the stairs by themselves.

"Let me help you, there's two legs between us, plus Toothless can help us carry some things, right bud?" Toothless let out a puff of smoke, he wasn't feeling all this helping stuff he wanted to fly. Nevertheless he sensed things were changing and decided the best thing to do was stay on Hiccup's good side and help him. Then hopefully he'd take him flying.

It took about an hour or so for Hiccup and Toothless' belongings to be set up in the house above the center. It looked exactly like their old home. Hiccup breathed in the familiar smell. He missed his father. So much. All of a sudden Gallord came bursting through the center door hollering.

"Chief! Chief!" Hiccup came bounding down the stairs with Gobber close behind.

"Gallord what is it, is everything okay?" Gallord grabbed a chair trying to catch his breath, he'd run all the way from the docks.

"Yes everything's fine! I just had to tell ya Princess Merida from the Kingdom of DunBroch is here to talk to ya!" Hiccup looked to Gobber confused. He just sighed.

"Come on I'll explain on the way." Gobber rushed Hiccup and Gallord out of the house.

"Come on bud!" Hiccup yelled. Toothless came rushing after them.

When they reached the docks Hiccup saw a mess of red curls pulled loosely into a braid, the girl was wearing an oversized men's shirt and pants that fell a bit above her ankles. Arrows were strapped behind her back and she was holding a bow. She didn't look much like a princess. More like a warrior. Her eyes caught his and she stumbled backwards into a dock worker.

"Are you alright Princess?" The worker said. She kept staring at Hiccup.

"I'm fine." Hiccup was quite confused until he realized she wasn't in fact staring at him, but Toothless. She probably hadn't seen a dragon before. He pat Toothless on the side throwing him a fish from one of the barrels. Finally he walked over to her.

"You're Merida right?" He stuck out his hand. She shook it hesitantly.

"I am. You look a bit young to be Stoick the vast, from all the stories I've heard." It was like a knife cutting through his heart. He sucked in a breath letting go of her hand.

"Actually I'm his son Hiccup, we... recently lost my father in a storm, I'm the new chief." As he said that a fish from a bucket one of the dock workers was carrying fell right on Hiccup's head. Merida chuckled.

"Ah sorry chief!" The man grabbed the fish and continued on with his work.

"I'm sorry about your father Hiccup, I almost lost my mother once that was... the scariest thing I've ever been through." Hiccup completely understood.

"I lost my mother a long time ago, be grateful you still have yours." Merida's eyes widened, Hiccup the orphaned chief was the only label she could put on him.

"Gobber tells me your here to talk about bringing dragons back to DunBroch?" Merida nodded confidently. Hiccup smiled. "Well the first thing you have to know about dragons is what it feels like to ride one. Come with me." Merida followed him obediently. "This is Toothless, Merida. Hop on." She widened her eyes. He hopped on Toothless and extended her his hand. "It's just like riding on a horse, but through the air. Let me show you." _Then I won't speak, just let me show you. Please Astrid._ Hiccup's heart caught in his throat. Merida simply hopped onto Toothless.

"Alright bud, let's fly."

Well I'm sure you guys are probably happy to see the darkness is lifting from the story. Now I know Merida's presence seems TOTALLY random but trust me it's going to be VERY important in this stories development and she'll play a major role. You'll just have to keep reading to find out what that role is ;) Review please!

4. Transformation

"This is amazing!" Merida screamed, the wind flowing through her already messy hair. Hiccup simply smiled. Looking around Merida saw how beautiful Berk truly was. She'd never thought a vikings home could look so, put together. As the minutes turned to hours Toothless' wings were getting tired. He landed on a cliff looking over the beautiful ocean. Hiccup thankfully remembered to bring along some fish, Toothless enjoyed his dinner as the teens talked.

"So where's your dad?" Hiccup asked, a pang hitting his gut. Merida looked out to the ocean.

"Taking care of me mum. She's having another baby." Hiccup nodded taking a bite out of the raw fish he'd brought for Toothless. Merida shivered. "How can you eat that? It's nasty..." Hiccup smirked.

"Eh Toothless and I sort of bonded this way. It's an acquired taste." Hiccup chuckled patting Toothless who burped out a fish carcass. Merida chuckled too. She missed Angus terribly. She took a good look at Hiccup. The weak name certainly didn't match the masculine appearance he possessed. Not exactly her taste though, he was too much of a dork. She did wonder if there was a girl in his life.

"So who's the lucky gal?" Merida teased as if they'd been friends

their whole life. Hiccup started choking on his fish. Merida hit his back until he coughed it up. Toothless looked at him concerned.

"She's uhh..." Hiccup felt tears starting to form, and to cry in front of anyone who wasn't Gobber was something he didn't feel appropriate for a chief. He got up and walked away, hopping on Toothless. "It's getting dark we should probably get back to the village. I have to do night rounds." Merida felt Hiccup becoming distant, she simply hopped on Toothless and didn't press the issue further.

The night air was freezing and crisp. A splash of water from the frigid ocean was enough to burn the skin of any it grasped. Hiccup could feel Merida shivering behind him. He grabbed the blanket out of the satchel attached to Toothless' side and threw it back to her. He heard a splash and turned around. She still sat there shivering but the blanket was floating in the water.

"Why didn't you catch it?" Hiccup yelled.

"How was I supposed to know you were gonna throw it?" Merida yelled. Hiccup rolled his eyes.

"Astrid would have known." He mumbled.

"Who's Astrid?" She screamed. Hiccup shook his head.

"My girlfriend." He didn't feel like explaining the story, since he wasn't facing her he could let the tears fall at will.

"Well I'm sorry I'm not as good as your little girlfriend. Now give me your shirt." Hiccup whirled his head around.

"Excuse me?"

"Give me your shirt! I'm freezing and you're used to these temperatures."

"I'm not giving you my shirt!" Hiccup yelled. Toothless was becoming amused. It reminded him of the fights Astrid used to have with Hiccup. It gave him comfort.

"You're nothin' but a big baby!" Merida huffed. Hiccup rolled his eyes and made Toothless pick of speed.

"Hey!" Merida yelled, clutching Hiccup for dear life. Hiccup chuckled as they landed in the center of Berk. Merida jumped off Toothless and attempted to tame her wild hair.

"How is that any way to treat a princess?" Merida thought she might as well use her status to her benefit. Hiccup raised his eyebrows.

"Since when does a princess wear pants and an oversized shirt?" Merida rolled her eyes.

"Did somebody say princess?" Snotlout appeared almost out of thin air. Merida eyed him cautiously and directed her attention towards Hiccup. Hiccup mentally facepalmed. He should have locked Snotlout up

when he had the chance.

"Snotlout this is Merida, princess of DunBroch. Merida... this is uh Snotlout." He bowed and smirked at Hiccup.

"Moved on so soon Hiccup? What would Astrid think?" Hiccup's temper flared. All he saw was red. He nailed Snotlout to the closest house and seethed,

"Don't you _dare_ to presume that I would do that to Astrid. You don't have the right. Don't forget your place Snotlout. I am the new chief. You follow _me_ not the other way around. Have a little respect." Snotlout shook his head.

"I'm not so sure _father Stoick_ would be so proud of you if he could see you. Half the village is going to go hungry this season and my rich family has to sacrifice everything to keep this village running. All because of your stupid judgement and you got Stoick killed." That was it. Hiccup slammed his fist into Snotlout's jaw and didn't let up. He continued to beat Snotlout to a pulp (not that he didn't deserve it) until Gobber pulled him back.

"Are ye mad?!" He boomed. The small second Snotlout had in the middle of the fight he had rammed his fist into Hiccup's eye, so hard some of the metal from his uniform had ripped the soft tissue under Hiccup's eye. It was bleeding profusely.

"He's crazy!" Snotlout got up barely phased. Although Hiccup had grown in strength, he was still no match for Snotlout.

"You watch yur mouth! He's our chief and you show him respect. I don't care _what_ you have to give up. Ye better start making the sacrifices necessary, this was gonna be done whether Hiccup or Stoick were chief. It would bid you well to know it wasn't Hiccup's idea to go flying during that storm it was Astrid's." Hiccup reeled around.

"Are you actually going to blame her?" Hiccup bellowed. Gobber sighed.

"No Hiccup, I'm just stating the facts. I'm trying to help ye." Hiccup shook his head.

"I don't need anyone's help! I am the chief now and you all need to stop treating me like I'm some sad sack weakling. We all need to make sacrifices this winter. If you don't like it, go find another village to live in see if I care." Merida couldn't stand by and watch everything fall to chaos. She ran over to Hiccup and pulled him away from the forming crowd.

"Hiccup I know yer mad. I would be too. But you have to keep yer head. You are the chief. You have to maintain order. I know you miss yer Dad. I'm assuming you're girlfriend too. But you're sacrifice is to let it go and keep everyone calm." Hiccup got his breathing under control. He felt the blood drip down his face onto his hand. He sighed and looked around.

"I'm sorry everyone. This is a hard transition for everyone. I know this is a terrible change we're going through but I need everyone's support. Is that too much to ask?" Hiccup glared at Snotlout who

huffed and walked away. Everyone else mumbled that it wasn't.

"Glad to hear it." Hiccup walked over to Merida and put a hand on her shoulder. "Thank you. It's been a rough few days. What do you say we teach you how to ride a dragon?" He smiled. She smirked.

"It's completely dark out, how am I supposed to ride a dragon in this?" She gestured to the darkness. He chuckled.

"Well the first thing you need to learn about riding a dragon is riding the _right_ dragon. I'm going to give you the book of dragons to look over for the evening, I've marked the pages of the dragons we currently have that need training and a rider. Which ever one speaks to you, let me know. We'll start training tomorrow." Hiccup reached into Toothess' saddle and grabbed the book, he handed it to Merida. She opened it and it fell on one dragon.

Water Dragon

Somewhere far south in a warmer place

"Mother I'm telling you I really did see a dragon!" Gothel rolled here eyes.

"Rapunzel please. Stop with this nonsense already. Now sing to me." Rapunzel huffed and began to sing as her hair began to glow. Gothel's wrinkles began to fade as her young appearance began to show up. Rapunzel's eyes widened as she saw frost begin to form on her window. As she finished the song Gothel got up and went to her room.

"I'll see you later Rapunzel. Be good, don't leave the tower you know." She waved her hands nonchalantly as Rapunzel ran to her window. She opened it and let the freezing air in as a boy flew inside, dragging some snow along with him.

"Hey Punzel! You wanna have a snowball fight?" He asked perching himself on her bedpost. She grabbed her hair nervously.

"Not today." He huffed.

"Come on you never want to leave the tower!" She sighed.

"Mother won't let me. It's for my own good. It's bad out there." He didn't want to have this argument with her again. She looked even more miserable then usual.

"Is something wrong?" He asked quizzically creating an ice slide to reach her. She played with her hair.

"Jack... are there such things as dragons?" He laughed.

"Of course there are." Her eyes widened excitedly.

"Oh really where? Please tell me!" She was like a small child. He adored her, she had been like the little sister he only saw once in a memory.

"This place called Berk, way up north." She huffed.

"Are there any here?" He laughed again.

"It's too warm for dragons here Punzel." He rolled his eyes.

"Rapunzel! Rapunzel I need you!" Gothel yelled. Jack and Rapunzel heard Gothel's door open and they looked at each other frightened.

"See ya later Punzel! And stop singing to her will you?" Jack flew out of the tower as fast as he could. He went to visit an old friend. One he hadn't seen in a long time. _Merida._

**Guys I'm sooooo sorry this took so long. Also I'm SO disappointed in this chapter, it's short and filler and I'm sorry :(I hope you enjoyed it nonetheless. Leave a review subscribe if you want to be updated when I add a new chapter! **

5. Bravery

Merida read the _Water Dragon _page at least twenty times through that night until she had memorized every word of it. The moon was high in the sky. It was midnight. Merida knew Vikings rose with the sun, but she just couldn't bring herself to sleep. When it started to snow she didn't think anything of it. It snowed in Berk all the time. Nonetheless she shivered and grabbed the blanket Gobber had brought her. She was staying in the dragon arena. There was no safer place on Berk. She decided perhaps it was time to go inside. Catching a cold wouldn't do any good.

Jack stared at the red mess of curls. There she was. She'd grown into a beautiful young lady, although he knew she'd kill him if she ever heard him call her a lady. He was petrified. Rapunzel didn't know any better. She was stuck in a tower away from reality. She'd always believe in him. Merida on the other hand grew up fast. She basically ran her tribe. Her father, although hard to admit, was kind of a dolt and her mother was carrying a child. He was afraid she no longer had time to dwell on childish wonders such as Whisps or Jack Frost. Scared she wouldn't he quietly said,

"Merida?" He shut his eyes and prayed she said something. Merida thought she heard someone whisper. She wrapped the blanket tighter around her body and took a step back into the dragon arena. The snow had stopped. She squinted, she saw a dark thin figure standing in the shadows of the moonlight. Jack sucked in a breath. She heard him.

"Who's there?" She asked. Nothing frightened this girl. She was too strong and had been through too much. Jack stepped out of the shadows. Her eyes widened. _Jack._

"Can you see me?" He asked. She stared at him in shock. She saw him step closer to her. She took a step back.

"Yer here." She said. Jack smiled and pumped his staff in the air.

"You can see me!" He ran over to her and picked her up spinning her around. She laughed and then shivered.

"Jack put me down! I'm freezing! Let's go inside." She ushered him into the dining hall of the arena. He sat down on a table and she leaned against the adjacent one.

"What are you doing here?" She asked, still in shock.

"I wanted to see you." Jack smiled. Her heart leaped.

"I was starting to think I'd thought you up in my head. You never came back." Merida shook her head, clearly disappointed. "Why didn't ye come back for my brothers, or me?" Jack sighed.

"Merida... you were so little. I still can't believe how much you've grown." She looked at him sideways.

"Yer avoiding the subject." He shook his head and laughed.

"Can't you just be happy I'm here now?" She smiled.

"I suppose. So ye came all this way just to see me?" She asked. He cocked his head. "I knew it! Why are ye really here?" She asked. Her stomach flipped. Why would she be disappointed.

"I have this friend, she lives far south of here. She asked about dragons. I wanted to get more information for her, plus I did hear you were here. Killing two birds with one stone!" She rolled her eyes. "So let's go have some fun!" Jack grabbed her arm and started pulling her outside.

"I can't." She pulled back. He looked at her with that half smile she couldn't resist. "Jack I'm all grown up now. I have responsibilities, and right now I need to sleep. I have a big day tomorrow. I'm learning to ride a dragon." He remembered why he didn't visit her. She changed. He sighed.

"I know." He couldn't take his eyes off of her.

"Why are ye staring at me?" She asked. He shook his head.

"You're different." She chuckled.

"Well ye haven't changed a wee bit." He smiled sadly.

"That's the problem." His words tugged at her heart. All of a sudden she heard the arena door open. She grabbed the nearest sword.

"Whoa don't swing! It's just me. Hiccup." Hiccup rubbed his eyes and walked towards Merida. Jack looked wildly around, and then remembered he probably couldn't see him anyways.

"Hiccup what are ye doing. Ye scared me half to death!" Hiccup smiled, she was clutching the dragon book for dear life.

"Have you chosen a dragon?" She smirked and flipped open the page to _Water Dragon_. "I had a feeling you'd pick that dragon." She kept smirking.

"What are ye doing up this late?" He grabbed a saddle and threw it in her direction. "Vikings may rise with the sun, but Dragons rise with the horizon. Come with me." Hiccup held out his hand to her to get on

Toothless. She put the book down and looked in Jack's direction. He smiled sadly. She had to go. She smiled and walked up to Hiccup.

"I don't need yer help." She sneered. He rolled his eyes.

"Of course not, princess." He teased. She laughed and hopped on Toothless. Toothless jet streamed out of the arena into the night sky.

"How can he see anything?" Hiccup turned around.

"You're kidding right?" Merida shook her head. "He's a Night Fury." She felt stupid.

"Well excuse me! Ah!" She ducked as Toothless went under a rock formation. She looked down and saw a layer of ice form on the surface of the ocean. _Jack's watching._ Toothless circled around and landed on the formation. Merida and Hiccup hopped off. Hiccup grabbed a suit like material out of the satchel.

"Put this on." He ordered. Merida looked at him like he was crazy.

"Are ye mad? This looks like skin." It smelled leathery. Hiccup looked at her sadly.

"It is." Her eyes widened in disgust. "Not human skin! My village used to hunt dragons. That's a pelt. I know it seems disgusting but you're going to have to wear it when you go in the ocean. It'll keep you from freezing to death." He shrugged.

"Why on earth would I go into the ocean?" Hiccup looked at her sideways.

"How else do you expect to ride a water dragon?" She laughed.

"Ye expect me to swim in that?" She pointed down. He was getting frustrated. She couldn't have picked a harder dragon, and he had much better things to do.

"Then pick another dragon!" He threw his hands up. Her heart ached. She knew everything about this dragon, she _needed_ to ride it.

"Alright alright, keep yer boots on. But turn around." He turned around and pet a sleeping Toothless why she changed. The skin was tight.

"Terrible Thor who's was this?" She yanked the pelt above her thighs.

"My mother's." She shut up.

"Alright I'm done." Hiccup turned around and was slightly taken aback. She was pretty stunning. The pelt fit perfectly to the curvature of her body. She rolled her eyes.

"Stop gawking and tell me what to do." He snapped out of it and handed her a gelatinous material.

"What is this?" She almost hacked.

"It's from the eggs of water dragons. Put it on your face so it doesn't freeze in the water. You're going to jump. You need to be extremely brave to ride a water dragon. So you need to show that quality. We are directly above a water dragon's nest. Most of the water dragon's won't sense you, except for one. That one is your match. You remember how many firing shots each water dragon has?" She nodded.

"Six." He smirked.

"Someone did their reading. Yes, this dragon won't know whether you're a friend or foe. Dragon's are defensive creatures so it will assume foe. You have to avoid every shot it takes. It's going to shoot shards of ice out of the crystals on it's back. Just keep swimming and you should be fine. Once it has no more shots left you swim up to it and climb on it's back. It will recognize you as a friend. Toothless and I will be here the whole time, and I assume Jack Frost will be as well." Merida was shocked.

"Ye know who that is?" Hiccup chuckled.

"Of course I do. You don't live in the land of never ending snow and don't believe in Jack Frost." Made sense. "Now go." Merida took a sharp breath of air and put the gunk on her face. She mustered every bit of bravery she had and jumped. She dived two hundred feet into the freezing waters.

"Merida!" Jack screamed. Hiccup woke Toothless and rode down to Jack.

"Don't interfere! If you do she may not bond with the dragon! Come up and watch from here. You'll be able to see clearly." It didn't even register to Jack that Hiccup could see him. He was too worried about Merida. Jack, Hiccup and Toothless returned to the rock formation. They could see the vague outline of the water dragon.

"Every time you see a blast, count. If you see any less than six in the next minute, tell me." Hiccup had to keep Toothless occupied so he didn't go down there. Jack stared.

"One. Wait you can see me?" Hiccup smirked.

"Yeah, keep counting." Jack sucked in a breath.

"Two... Three..." He trailed off. There was no more light. Hiccup turned around.

"Why did you stop counting?" He looked at Jack.

"There's nothing left to count." Hiccup and Jack shared a worried look. They waited. Still nothing. Then out of nowhere something about the size of Toothless flew straight out of the ocean. Hiccup laughed.

"She did it!" He yelled. Jack flew right up to Merida.

"Are you okay?" He screamed taking in the magnificent beast. Clear crystals lined it's backbone. It's entire body looked like water

except for its feet and armor, which were transparent blue crystals.

"I'm fine!" Merida was dripping wet. Jack stared at her. She looked wild and beautiful. The dragon skin changed into the crystals lining the water dragon as its magic seeped into her. She felt alive. She flew down to Hiccup and hugged him as Jack watched.

"That was amazing!" She pulled back and hugged Jack, she didn't want him to feel awkward. Hiccup smiled.

"It doesn't look like you need any help. You're a natural." Jack nudged her.

"Just like riding a rose eh?" She chuckled and then looked at him smirking.

"How did you know I rode a horse?" He had been watching her through the years but never brought himself to make contact. He smirked.

"Last one to Berk has to eat raw fish!" Merida and Hiccup jumped on their respective dragons and flew through the night back to Berk.

Somewhere far to the south

"Rapunzel get in here!" She groaned gathering her hair.

"I'm coming mother!" Gothel looked annoyed when Rapunzel finally entered the room.

"I'm going on a trip. I'll be gone for a while. I left plenty of food around the tower. Keep it clean. Don't leave. If you run out of food make bread. There's plenty of ingredients in the kitchen. Mother loves you!" Gothel shoved Rapunzel back into her room and slid down her golden hair. Rapunzel stood there, lost. What was she to do? She prayed Jack would come back soon. She needed to get out. Nothing about Gothel's leaving felt right, and she wanted to see a dragon. She knew Jack was her best hope.

Gothel smirked as she left the tower. She was going to find that dragon. She was going to get its blood. She was going to be rid of Rapunzel.

** Hey lovelies! Sorry this took so long. Junior year is a nightmare! I hope you enjoy this chapter as much as I enjoyed writing it! I'm loving Merida's bad ass nature. Finally Jack Merida and Hiccup meet. I can't wait for you guys to see whats in store for The Big Four :D Review as always :)**

6. Deception

"Pascal where is Jack? I need to get out of here. I need to find that dragon. I have to prove to mother I can handle the outside world." Rapunzel slumped against the balcony of her tower completely crushed. She had no idea how to get to the North, she did know her hair would be a nuisance. She couldn't cut it though. It would die and the magic would be gone. She just wishes she didn't have the great

responsibility of it all. And she wanted to find the boy who was on the beach with the dragon. She wanted to know everything she could. Rapunzel always wanted to fly and be free. This was her one chance.

Somewhere far north

Merida and Jack sat outside of the dragon arena, her dragon at her feet.

"What are you going to call it?" Jack asked poking it with his staff. The dragon stirred but didn't wake. Merida elbowed Jack.

"His name is Oighear" Jack narrowed his eyes.

"How can you tell it's a he?" Merida glared.

"I can feel it. I don't know how I'm going to go back to my old life in Dunbroch... I won't even inherit Dad's leadership... one of the boys will." Merida sighed and puffed her hair out of her face. Jack looked at her sadly. She was growing up. She looked up into his eyes. He was handsome. "Jack..." She murmured. He shook his head.

"Merida don't." That was enough to shut her up. She stood up. He leaned his head on his staff. "Good night princess." He smirked.

"Oh please yer too much!" She sneered and went inside the dragon arena to catch some sleep before she started preparing for her trip home. She looked around at Berk. She was going to miss this place. A figure stepped out of the shadows and Jack aimed his staff at it.

"Who's there?" He shouted. Hiccup stepped forward hands raised.

"Don't shoot!" He joked. Jack lowered his staff skeptically.

"How is it that you can see me?" Jack asked. Hiccup sat down in the arena with him.

"Berk believes in a lot of legends. It's nice to meet you. How is it Merida can see you?" Jack rubbed his neck. It was a long story.

"Let's just say Merida is a firm believer in legends." Hiccup nodded.

"She's something isn't she? It's a shame she has to leave." Jack's heart panged. Of course Hiccup would fall for her... who wouldn't?

"Yeah, she is." Jack leaned his head on his staff. Hiccup looked at him sideways.

"You two are close aren't you?"

"I knew her when she was very young. I haven't seen her since." Jack spoke softly. He knew he was lying, but what's the truth if it doesn't do a bit of good. Hiccup smiled.

"Well I think I'll ask her to stick around. Maybe you should too. I'm sure everyone in Berk will be able to see you." Jack looked up surprised.

"Why are you asking her to stay?" Hiccup sighed.

"The truth is I need all the help I can get. Merida's good at this stuff... ruling." Jack felt jealousy settle into his stomach. Hiccup was a good man. How could Merida not fall for him? "Listen I need to get some sleep before tomorrow, we'll see you in the morning." Hiccup patted Jack's shoulder and stoked off to his house completely exhausted.

Jack couldn't contain his feelings. He knew staying would be a terrible idea, he knew that he and Merida would never work. He doesn't grow up, and she does. He flew off to the only other life long friend he had: Rapunzel.

Somewhere far south

"Pascal I don't want to hear it, I know it's a bad idea and I know the world is scary but we have to try." Pascal stared at Rapunzel with fear and anger in his eyes. She was going to leave the tower herself, without Jack or Gothel. He just kept staring at her. What else could this tiny chameleon do? Rapunzel swung her hair over the side of the tower around a hook.

"Well are you coming, or are you going to wait for me?" Rapunzel huffed at her little friend. Pascal rolled his eyes and hopped on her shoulder. He'd protect her. "Here we goooo!" Rapunzel screamed as she jumped using her hair as rope. When her feet touched the ground she screamed. Pascal looked up shocked.

"What is this? It tickles my feet!" Rapunzel stared down at the grass between her toes, the morning dew stuck to her fragile feet. She giggled and ran around the tower. "How could a world so beautiful be bad?" She asked. Pascal scurried over to Rapunzel and hopped on her shoulder. She tickled his head and journeyed into the forest. Sunlight trickled through the gaps of the leaves and illuminated the dew on the forest floor making it shine. She breathed in the scent of fresh rain and saw all sorts of creatures scurrying around looking for food. She never felt so alive. All of a sudden she heard a cry.

"Help! Help me!" It was a deep voice. She'd never heard so deep a voice before. She figured it _had_ to be male. She ran through the forest following the brooding voice. She came to a small clearing where she saw a small pond. There wasn't a sound. She looked around wildly.

"You heard that too, right Pascal?" The chameleon stared blankly at her, frankly he barely understood what she was saying half the time.

"Took you long enough!" Rapunzel heard the deep voice from above her head. She looked up and saw a man hanging from a tree. Rope was dangled around his ankle.

"Who are you?" She asked. The man rolled his eyes.

"I think the better question is, how are you going to get me down?" Rapunzel looked at Pascal who pounced up the tree and gnawed at the rope. The man fell and hit his head. He rubbed his neck standing up.

"You're much prettier from this angle." He smirked. Rapunzel glared.

"I think you meant to say thank you." He took a smug step towards her, and then bowed.

"Apologies m'lady. The names Euge... Flynn Rider." Eugene caught himself before he gave away his true identity, whatever he was going to or attempt to do with this girl was better if name's stayed out of it.

"My name's Rapunzel." His eyes widened. He recognized that name. She was the lost princess. It made sense. He'd heard the stories but never believed they were true. Her hair was tens of feet long and a golden color, presumably from the flower.

"Rapunzel you say? Well it looks like I'm indebted to you. What can I do for you?" Eugene was sly. Rapunzel was fairly innocent so she simply asked,

"Have you ever seen a dragon?" Eugene saw the perfect opportunity. He owed the bandits he stole from money. Lots of it. Stealing the pride and joy of their collection, an elf's wand, was a risky move. Somehow he managed to pull it off, sell the thing, and avoid the bandits for months. They finally caught up to him the previous week.

"Fellas so good to see you again!" Eugene hit the smaller of the two on the back.

_ "Oh we'll see how good it is when we're pummeling you to death." Eugene gulped. He was toast._

_ "Wait! Before we do anything rash, what would you say to a deal?" They crossed their arms and stared at him. He was notorious for being a liar. _

_ "What does this deal entail?" The larger one asked. Eugene smirked._

_ "I have your money. I will admit I spent some of it, but the majority of it is hidden south of here. I'll get you the rest of the money and in return you don't kill me." They didn't trust him, but they were already on the run for stealing the lost princess' crown. They wouldn't go down for murder too._

_ "You have one week to get us our money. If you're not back here by sunrise on the seventh day, there's no where you'll be able to hide. We'll find you." They stoked off in the dense forest. Eugene was left stumbling. _

He knew this Lost Princess could be used as leverage for the extra cash. The wheels started turning in his head.

"Yes I actually have." Rapunzel's eyes lit up. Eugene started leading her away. "Not too far from here. In the deepest part of the forest

there are loads of them." Rapunzel's heart leapt, she knew it. She knew they were real. Even more so when Jack had verified it. _Wait, Jack said they were far North. It was too warm for them here._ Rapunzel's blood ran cold as she realized Eugene was lying. She whirled around and saw a cold stare in his eyes.

"You're lying. Where are you taking me?" Eugene had a firm grip on her arm at this point. He walked too close for comfort towards her.

"I'm not lying Rapunzel." She yanked her arm away from his. He only gripped it tighter.

"Let me go!" She screamed. Eugene grabbed her other arm.

"You asked me to take you to the dragons. That's exactly what I plan to do." She struggled to get out of his grip but he wouldn't let up. She felt a sharp pain in her shoulder. She couldn't feel her arm. She screamed and collapsed on the ground. Her shoulder was dislocated. The pain was unbearable. Eugene kneeled down next her.

"You better stay alive, you're my only chance. You're not going to die today Princess." He picked her up bridal style and strut off towards the meeting spot. He wasn't going to die because of a stupid wand. He should have kept the damn thing himself. Frankly he didn't much care what the dragons did with her. He'd be off the hook at that was enough. In too much pain to stay conscious, Rapunzel passed out.

"Rapunzel?" Jack yelled as he walked aimlessly around the tower. It had taken him a week to fly back to her tower. Finally when he walked back to her room he saw a note lying on her dresser.

_Dear Mother - _

_ I'm sorry but the world can't be as terrible of a place as you say. I'm going to find the dragon and the rider. I'll be back, I promise. Please don't be angry with me. I just want to show you I'm stronger than you think._

_ Yours truly,_

_ Rapunzel_

Jack's eyes widened. She couldn't have gotten far. Before he flew off her balcony he saw Pascal laying on the edge shivering. Jack picked the little guy up.

"Pascal what happened?" He noticed dried blood on Pascal's belly, but it wasn't Pascal's. Pascal looked up at him with sad eyes. A harsh realization hit Jack. Pascal was only ever on Rapunzel's shoulder. _It was her blood._

7. Dominance

Hiccup woke up early to take Toothless out for his morning spin. Yawning, he gently nudged Toothless awake. Toothless slowly opened his eyes.

"Come on bud, let's get you some exercise." Hiccup grabbed Toothless' saddle and walked to the edge of the cliff his house was on. A cold rush swam through his veins as he almost yelled, 'Dad we'll be back later'. He sighed and stared out to the open ocean, waiting for Toothless to emerge. His heart sunk when he thought of Stoick. Astrid too. He wanted to marry her. He wanted her by his side. Instead ice rain through her veins at the bottom of the sea. He then looked towards the sky. He knew they were both in Valhalla, a better place. He felt someone nudge him and looked down at Toothless.

"Thank goodness I have you bud." While rigging Toothless' saddle, Merida approached.

"Good morning." Hiccup nodded.

"Hello chief, have ye seen Jack?" Hiccup looked at her quizzically.

"Not since last night, why do you ask?" Merida tugged at her red curls shaking her head.

"It's nuthin." She started walking away and Hiccup ran after her tugging her shoulder.

"Come on Merida what's going on? You know Jack's probably fine." Merida rolled her eyes and shoved Hiccup's hand off of her.

"I know _that_. I just haven't seen him in years and I missed him a bit. That's all. Now will ye leave me alone, I have to go prepare for me journey back home." Hiccup knew when to push and when not to push something so he let her stalk off. He sighed, he would never understand women. Hiccup hopped on Toothless.

"You ready bud?" He yelled in excitement. Toothless yawned. "Well that's comfort-" Hiccup couldn't finish his sentence before Toothless catapulted into the air. Dodging rock formations and huge manta rays always cleared Hiccup's head. Thoughts of Stoick and Astrid slipped away and Hiccup entered a state of pure bliss and adrenaline. It was him and Toothless. As one.

Somewhere far south

Rapunzel stirred in her sleep, she had a dreamless night. All of a sudden a sharp pain ran from her shoulder through her arm to her head. She screamed in pain and sat up. This only made it worse. Her arms were chained to something and when she yanked to free herself she only made the injury worse. She looked at her shoulder and was utterly horrified. Not only was it dislocated but a giant cut, down to the bone was visible, blood was gushing out of it. She felt faint. Her body entered a state of shock. She tried to scream but was muffled by the cloth shoved in her mouth.

"That won't do you a bit of good there princess." She looked up and saw the man, Flynn looking dark as ever. Rapunzel was terrified. _Princess? What is he talking about? _She had no way to wrap her hair around her shoulder to heal it, and there was no way she was revealing her gift to this evil man. Her vision started going blurry and all she heard was Flynn laugh and yell something to whoever was driving the carriage she was trapped in. The world went black.

Jack searched endlessly for Rapunzel. There was no sign of her anywhere. He was terribly worried, he couldn't lose his best friend. He didn't know what else to do. He wanted so desperately to fly back to Berk and enlist the help of Hiccup. Hiccup was the only person he'd ever heard of who made the impossible, well, possible. He was so scared of seeing Merida again. He knew how pissed off she would be that he just disappeared. He'd done it to her once before. Even though it had only been a day he couldn't even imagine what she thought of him. Rapunzel was in trouble though, he cursed to himself, swallowed his pride and started his flight back to Berk.

Berk

The sun was high in the sky by the time Hiccup and Toothless had landed, taking a lunch break. Toothless eyed him concerned.

"Don't worry bud, Gobber can handle the village for a day. There's nothing terribly urgent." Hiccup threw Toothless a raw fish after taking a bite himself. This was peaceful, and he was genuinely happy.

"Where have ye been?" Merida flew over to Hiccup and Toothless. He rolled his eyes. The princess of sass had arrived and thrown his good mood out the window.

"Flying." Hiccup answered. Merida huffed and jumped off Oighear.

"Well do ye plan on coming back soon?" Merida pushed. Hiccup turned his head and looked at her.

"Why do you care?" He snapped. Hiccup's mood was slowly turning fowl. Merida threw her hands in the air and huffed.

"Because yer village is in an uproar and all yer doing is running, or flying or whatever! They _need _you, Hiccup!" Hiccup took a step towards her.

"You don't know what my village needs! Gobber can handle it." That made Merida laugh. "What could possibly be funny?" Hiccup yelled.

"Gobber is sitting on his fanny getting drunk as a pirate! I'm the one who's been taking care of everything! I should be preparing to go home, but no I'm stuck tending to yer village while yer playing hooky. I know yer dad just died and yer girlfriend, but Hiccup, ye have to make peace with it and move on! Ye have a responsibility to these people." Hiccup's glare softened. She wasn't wrong. He collapsed on his knees staring at the ocean.

"I just... I can't. You don't understand what it's like. Losing everything you love." Merida's anger faded a little and she kneeled down next to Hiccup putting a hand on his shoulder.

"Once, I turned me mum into a bear. My entire family was almost killed in the process and I thought I'd lost her forever. There was nuthin I could do. For a few minutes, she was gone, and that was the only reality I knew. I know how yer feeling. My dad has always been better with my brothers, I didn't know what I would have done without her. Hiccup, sulking and flying off every time yer feeling sad, isn't

going to help anyone. Ye have to put this behind you, and protect yer own. Ye know how harsh of a winter it's going to be." Hiccup looked at her.

"You remind me of Astrid." Merida blushed a little, how was she supposed to respond to that? She stood up and extended her hand.

"Come on, let's get ye both back." She patted Toothless as she hopped on Oighear and headed back in the direction of Berk. Toothless nudged Hiccup and shot him an all-knowing glance. Hiccup rolled his eyes. He was about to get on Toothless when a cold shot of cold air constricted his lungs. He looked up to see Jack zooming past on his way to Berk. Hiccup and Toothless shared a worried look. Something was definitely wrong.

When Hiccup and Toothless arrived back at Berk there was a huge crowd surrounding Jack and Merida.

"How dare ye! How could ye just leave like that, _again?_" Merida screamed at Jack.

"Merida, I'm sorry, but this isn't the time. Where is Hiccup?" Merida's eyes were wild.

"Not the time? What is wrong with ye?" She lunged towards him. Hiccup ran through the crowd and grabbed Merida around the waste pulling her back.

"Merida don't!" He yelled. She was pretty strong.

"Someone get me me arrows!" She screamed. Hiccup shot Jack a glance, he looked unbelievably worried. Hiccup dragged Merida into the town center and motioned for Jack to follow. Jack flew a bit ahead of him.

"Get yer stinkin hands off of me!" Merida yelled clawing at Hiccup to let her go. She was ready to kill Jack.

"You have to promise you aren't going to kill, dismember, or traumatize him, okay?" She just kept struggling. "Merida pull yourself together!" Hiccup yelled. She felt her body become less tense and he, very cautiously, let her go. He huffed.

"What's going on?" Hiccup looked to Merida.

"It doesn't matter." If only looks could kill.

"Obviously it matters, you almost killed him in front of the entire village." Jack sat on a table leaning his head on his staff.

"Merida I wasn't even gone a day." She whipped her head towards him, her hair spiraling out of control.

"The last time ye left without saying anything ye were gone for ten years! Do ye know how hard it was to keep believing in something that just betrayed and abandoned me? Do ye know how crazy everyone thought I was for keeping faith in ye? I am never going to be put in that position again. Ever. Don't think ye can just stalk back in here like nuthin ever happened and-"

"I kept watch over you for all of those year Merida!" Jack stood and yelled. Merida's eyes were like stone.

"And ye never said anything to me once?!" She screeched. Jack huffed and looked at her frustrated.

"Why would I? You looked so happy! All I can give to you is cold and pain!" It was then that Hiccup stepped in.

"Okaay so this is going in a weird direction." Hiccup walked between the two of them facing Jack. "Why did you come back?" He asked.

"My friend is hurt. I don't know where she is or if she's alive or dead. All I know is that she needs help and I have no idea how to find her." Merida stood next to Hiccup.

"Who is it?" Jack looked at her with sad eyes.

"Her name is Rapunzel, neither of you would know her." Merida felt a pang of jealousy, he could visit this Rapunzel but ignore her?

"What can I do to help?" Hiccup asked.

"I need you to find her, bring Toothless. Please, we have to go now!" Jack started to walk out of the town center.

"Jack I can't just leave my village-" Merida placed a hand on Hiccup's shoulder.

"I got this." She nodded smirking. "It's just a village, I've dealt with worse." Hiccup stared at her.

"Are you sure?" She nodded.

"Just keep yer head okay?" She pulled him into a hug. "And be careful." She hugged her back.

"Jack!" Hiccup yelled, "I have to go make a few preparations and take care of a few things, we'll leave as soon as I'm ready." Hiccup ran out of the center. Merida stared at Jack cooly. He caved.

"Come on princess, you can't really stay mad at me?" He gave her a sideways smile. All she did was shake her head. "Mer come on," He grabbed her arm. She yanked it away.

"Ye left me Jack. Ye were all I had. I thought it didn't matter anymore, because even though it took ten years, ye found me again. I thought ye were busy, but ye were obviously with this Rapunzel the whole time. Just leave, I don't want to see ye anymore." Merida turned away and started out of the center. Jack's heart ached, everything in him screamed to let her go, it would be better for the both of them.

"Rapunzel was locked in a tower, she had _no one else_, you had a family and don't think I didn't know about all those suitors." Jack pointed his staff at her. She turned around wildly.

"Well did ye also know I turned all of them down? I turned me own mother into a bear so that I didn't have to get married. Ye are so

selfish Jack, ye only see what's right in front of ye while missing the whole picture." She shoved him, he stood firm.

"What was I supposed to do? Waltz into your life unannounced? Your family didn't believe in me, I didn't even know if you believed anymore!" Merida scoffed.

"Yer infuriating! Just keep making excuses why don't ye-" Jack grabbed Merida around the waste aggressively but pulled her face to his softly. Merida's eyes widened as Jack's lips touched hers. He tasted like fresh snow. Her eyes fluttered closed and wrapped her arms around his neck, standing on her tippy toes deepening the kiss. They fought for dominance, Merida winning of course. Finally, after what seemed like forever, Jack pulled away. They were both breathing heavily.

"Took ye long enough." Merida mumbled out of breath. Jack shrugged smirking at her.

"Ten years isn't all that long for me princess."

8. Management

"Gollard!" Hiccup yelled as he rushed down to the docks.

"Chief Hiccup!" Gollard looked up surprised (A/N I keep changing his name sorry it's OFFICIALLY Gollard, also said it took Jack a week to get to Rapunzel and I meant a day xD Sorry!) "What can I do for you?"

"How many fish did you manage to catch yesterday?" Hiccup prayed the number was above six hundred so he'd have some food to bring for Toothless.

"Hmm I think it was around 800 or soâ€¦ those dragons really helped a lot!" Gollard exclaimed. Hiccup sighed in relief.

"Gollard you are a life savor! Do me a favor and stock one hundred of those fish. I need them strapped to Toothless within the hour. Gollard scratched his head quizzically.

"Are you going somewhere Chief?" Hiccup was already running up the docks.

"No time to explain! I'll be back soon bud, don't eat all the fish!" Toothless growled as Hiccup kept running. He wanted fish. Really badly. Toothless eyed a bucket filled with fish and wandered over to it. Unfortunately a dragon isn't really a master in the art of stealth, Gollard saw Toothless stalking over to the bucket and threw an eel in front of it.

"No you don't Toothless!" Gollard urged Toothless back up the docks and started counting off one hundred fish for Hiccup to take on his journey. He was left uneased at the fact Hiccup had been chief barely a week and already he was rushing off on another adventure.

"Hey Hiccup wait up!" Ruffnut yelled to him as he was rushing towards the town center. Hiccup slowed down and mentally cursed himself, what did she want?

"Yes Ruffnut, what is it?" Hiccup monotonously stated.

"I was just wondering what we should do about the training school, there aren't really any teachers right now and the kids are getting antsy." Hiccup stared in shock. Ruffnut managed a coherent logical thought without sounding like a dunderhead.

"Uh has Heather returned yet?" Ruffnut nodded. "Great tell her to meet me by the town hall as soon as she can. Thanks Ruffnut!" Hiccup yelled running off. Next to Astrid, Heather had been the smartest girl he knew. He didn't let his thoughts dwindle on Astrid or he'd be thrown into the darkest depths of his mind, yet again. Hiccup reached the town center out of breath. It was a torturous run uphill from the docks, he wondered how they ever managed it without dragons.

"People of Berk listen up!" Everyone stopped what they were doing as Fishlegs rang the bell to get everyone's attention. Jack and Merida heard the bell and out of pure curiosity stepped out of the center directly behind Hiccup. Murmurs went throughout the crowd as Jack appeared. Hiccup wheeled around. Jack was wide eyed. They could all see them, they all believed. It almost brought him to tears. Manly tears though. Merida elbowed him. He cocked his head in her direction.

"What's the matter Princess?" Merida motioned towards Hiccup who was looking at Jack annoyed. He was about to make an important speech. Jack shut up.

"I know I've only recently become your Chief, and I know you've only just gotten used to me, but there's an urgent matter of business I have to take care of concerning Jack Frost. When legends strike we can't ignore them. My father always used to say that. Here stands a legend we all firmly believe in, and he needs my help. Princess Merida will be taking my place as interim Chief in my absence. I don't know how long I'll be gone but I will come back. I have spoken with Gollard and we've managed to come two hundred fish above our standards, and the Jorgenson's have so kindly donated some more funding into the Dragon Training program while Gertrud and her wonderful family have informed me we are above quota for farming and livestock. This winter won't be our downfall. It will be our strength. We will perspire." Just as Hiccup was about to finish his speech he saw Heather standing in the front of crowd. He motioned for her to stand next to him. Rather embarrassed she took Hiccup's hand and stood up above the village. "I am leaving our Dragon Training program to Heather, she is both brilliant and extremely qualified to run it. The School of Dragons is open." Heather looked at Hiccup completely confused. As he bid farewell to the village and gave all his plans to Merida he turned to Heather. Her eyes were red and puffy. He had forgotten how close she and Astrid had become. He pulled her into a tight hug, she was a sister to him.

"Hic I'm so sorry." She buried her head in his neck. He shook his head.

"So I am. I miss her terribly." He pulled back and put her head in his hands. "But we're going to be okay. Do you think you can handle this?" She nodded.

"Of course I can. Astrid trained me well. If it's all the same to you

though, can I let Fishlegs do all the academic stuff?" Hiccup laughed, same old Heather. He squeezed her shoulder and walked up to Jack.

"Are we ready?" He noticed Jack's hand lingered on the small of Merida's back. "Well I see you two have made up." Merida punched Hiccup.

"I'm going to get Toothless and say good bye to him. Ye be careful. I'll kill ye if either of ye die. Well â€“ uh ye know what I mean." She ran off in her mess of curls. Hiccup laughed a bit and looked at Jack who was staring at him with some nostalgia in his eyes.

"What are you staring at?" Hiccup asked taking a step back. Jack's mind drifted to a Berk ten years ago when Hiccup was only six. A dragon raid had just finished and Valka, Hiccup's mother, was no where to be found. Hiccup had been cowering in the house.

"Hiccup!" Stoick ran up to his son and embraced him firmly. Tears had been streaming down Hiccup's face. He was so frightened. Stoick put Hiccup to bed and started yelling for Valka. She was no where to be found. He feared the worst. He choked back tears and went up to Hiccup.

"Hiccup, where did Mom go?" Hiccup shook his head wildly. Stoick's eyes widened as he laid a hand on Hiccup's shoulder. "Son, where is she?"

"They took her!" He cried. Stoick stumbled back and ran out of the house screaming for the wife he feared was dead. Jack had seen the whole ordeal. He didn't think anyone on Berk believed in him, but he followed the dragon that had taken Valka. It veered off course of the others who carried livestock and fish and took her to a place encased in ice. She'd been there ever since.

Jack was afraid that if he shared this memory with Hiccup, he wouldn't help him find Rapunzel. As much as it pained him, Jack didn't say a word. Jack smirked and clapped Hiccup on the shoulder. He saw Merida return, Toothless following close behind and knew it was time to venture into the unknown.

"Just lost in thought I guess." Jack shrugged. Hiccup nodded still suspicious. Whatever Jack had been thinking about didn't seem like an ordinary thought, but Hiccup would have to let that go for now. He had to help Jack save this Rapunzel. Hiccup hopped onto Toothless.

"You're sure you can handle this?" He asked Merida. She scoffed.

"Of course I can! Go! Stop wasting time! And don't take ten years to come back either." She stared at Jack accusingly.

"I'll do my best princess." He tugged on one of her curls. She went to hit him on the shoulder but he grabbed her hand and kissed it, winking up at her as he did. She rolled her eyes.

"Just watch out for Snotlout and the twins, they're a handful!" With that last piece of advice Hiccup, Toothless and Jack jet streamed off into the beginning of a new adventure.

Hey guys! Whoa okay I know this chapter is really short, it's sort of filler. I'm trying not to rush this story like I have most of my other ones so I'm giving more description to the little things. You're going to be hearing less about Stoick and Astrid as the chapter progress. There is too much to distract Hiccup at this point, and those who wondered what's going on with Gothelâ€¦ well you'll just have to wait and see. She won't be popping back up for a WHILE though. I'm still in a writing kind of mood tonight though, so perhaps you'll get another chapter out me yet! Review as always please :)

9. Flying

After four hours of flying it become evident to Hiccup that Toothless needed a rest. There was a small island just shy of five miles away it seemed, all of half a minute with Toothless at top speed.

"Toothless needs to rest!" Hiccup shouted to Jack. Jack nodded as he followed Hiccup's line of sight to the island and zoomed off in it's direction. After two minutes Hiccup and Toothless reached the island. Hiccup hopped off of Toothless and gave him ten fish to nosh on while he stretched his legs. Toothless quickly finished off the fish, burped out their carcasses and started wading into the water to get more. Jack stood up and followed Hiccup around.

"Uhâ€¦ can I help you?" Jack's behavior was rather odd to Hiccup. He just shrugged.

"People never see me, it's weird." Hiccup understood on a rather emotional level. For the better part of his life, not even his own father saw him for who he truly was. He knew it must have been worse for Jack. He wanted to change the subject, Jack didn't seem like an entirely open kind of guy.

"Sooo, uh you and Merida huh?" Hiccup asked. He noticed himself doing the 'arm thing' Astrid always teased him about. He wouldn't let his mind go there. He took his eyes off of Jack and stared at Toothless who'd managed to capture twenty more fish to feast on. He watched as the cat-like dragon scorched the ground beneath him and curled up for a nap. Hiccup chuckled a bit, Toothless never changed.

"I don't know. It's complicated." Jack kicked some sand. It reminded him of Sandy, which then reminded him of North and Bunnymund and how he hadn't been making too much trouble for them lately. He'd have to make a note to do that once this whole ordeal was done.

"What's so complicated?" Hiccup threw his hands in the air â€“ the hand thing. "You like her, she obviously likes you. There's nothing complicated about it." Jack smirked. For as wise beyond his years as Hiccup was, he was still incredibly naÃ¯ve.

"Well I don't grow up, she does. Can you honestly see a thirty year old woman with an immortal kid who most people don't believe in?" Jack asked perching on a rock. Hiccup rubbed the back of his neck. Even when he was insecure, Jack was still fresh as ever and more brooding than Hiccup ever could be. Honestly, Hiccup was intimidated by Jack.

"I guess not. I'm sure you'll figure something out though. Merida is anything but ordinary, and it doesn't seem like she wants anything but adventure." Jack shrugged and look at Hiccup sideways pointing his staff in his direction.

"What about you? You got a girl?" The way Jack spoke was so nonchalant. Sadness tugged at his heart. Hiccup coughed a bit.

"Sort ofâ€¦ I used to." Jack jumped off his rock and punched Hiccup in the arm.

"Ah that's unfortunate, broke up with you did she?" Hiccup glared at Jack.

"Died actually." He didn't see the point in beating around the bush. Jack's face mirrored every sense of the word facepalm.

"Oh. Wow I feel like an ass. I'm really sorry Hiccup." Hiccup walked up to Toothless and patted him on the head. Toothless seemed down, no doubt missing Stormfly. Hiccup threw him five more fish and took a few for himself.

"We'll be alright, right bud?" He cocked his head to look at Toothless who had been not so thrilled with Hiccup for waking him up from his nap. Jack so desperately wanted to offer Hiccup some comfort by telling him about his Mother. How could he even bring that up in conversation though? He didn't even know if she was still alive. For all he knew she could have starved or frozen to death. Plus, Hiccup might take off and leave Jack to find Rapunzel for himself. He knew a dragon could find something that was lost better than he ever could. He couldn't risk it.

"Uh Jack?" Jack whirled around to see Hiccup staring at him quizzically.

"Uh Hiccup?" He repeated. Hiccup stood there awkwardly, a little starstruck (still) and repeated himself.

"I asked if you thought we should get going?" Hiccup motioned towards Toothless who was itching to get back in the air. Since Hiccup became chief there wasn't a ton of time to fly. No one else knew how to fly him either, Astrid always said she would butâ€¦ well you know.

"Oh right, yeah let's go." Jack didn't feel like flying himself so he hopped onto Toothless with Hiccup and off they went.

Jack watched the world go by as the chill from Berk faded away and a warmer climate came to be. It was still freezing, mind you, but it was bearable. Neither Jack nor Hiccup felt cold though, the cold never bothered them. An hour or so went by and Hiccup didn't utter a word. Jack wasn't in a talking mood. He couldn't stop thinking about Merida and what they were going to do. He was also worried sick about Rapunzel. He kept praying silently to the man in the moon to keep her safe. If she died, he didn't know what he would do. He wouldn't even go there.

All of a sudden Jack looked up and saw a blur of green whiz passed him. Hiccup didn't even blink. He probably couldn't see her. Toothiana never made it to Berk. She turned around and waved to Jack. He gave her a half smile and waved. They'd never spoken, not even

once. She hadn't come to Rapunzel's tower either. He wondered what the policies were when it came to whose houses/villages she'd send her tooth faeries. He shrugged, thank goodness he wasn't stuck collecting teeth and watching over kids, that'd drive him nuts.

"Hey Hiccup, do you believe in Santa or the Easter bunny?" He asked. Hiccup turned his head.

"Who?" Jack shrugged, perhaps Hiccup's village hadn't caught up to that time yet. You see, those deemed worthy for immortality by the man in the moon weren't under the restrictions of time that normal humans were. He didn't even know if Bunnymund or the Toothfairy or North existed in Hiccup, Merida and Rapunzel's time. That would explain why Toothiana never came to any of them and why Rapuznel laughed when he tried to explain who Bunnymund was.

"Nevermind." Hiccup shrugged and kept flying. Another three hours went by and Toothless was completely exhausted. It was then that Hiccup recognized the beach he had ended up on that gruesome night. His eyes widened as he took Toothless down towards it.

"What's going on? Does Toothless need another break?" Jack asked. Hiccup took off his flight helmet and hopped off of Toothless, ignoring Jack completely. Any sign of death that had been at the beach had been washed away by the water. He stared out towards the ocean. He thought of Astrid and Stormfly. It was what she wanted, at least now he knew how to visit the place that haunted his nightmares. Being backâ€¦ it gave Hiccup some peace. He hadn't realized how heavy his heart was until he was back, the closure that she was goneâ€¦ It lifted some of the weight. Hiccup felt like he could take a deep breath for the first time in what seemed like a lifetime. Jack couldn't get his bearings, he had no idea where they were.

"I dozed off on Toothless while we were flying, I'm going to get a better look and see where we are." Jack took off and didn't return for another half hour. Hiccup dumped the bucket of fish out and took a bite out of a few and let Toothless chow down the rest.

"You're amazing bud." Hiccup put his hand on Toothless' head. Toothless nuzzled against Hiccup. He didn't know exactly where they were but he felt sadness, and saw the sadness in his friend's eyes. Out of nowhere Jack came whizzing back.

"You picked the perfect landing spot!" Jack hit Hiccup on the shoulder.

"Seriously? More hitting? People need to stop with the hitting! I'm going to bruise. I already have one broken arm, can we not make it two?" He rubbed his shoulder. "Why exactly did I pick the perfect landing spot?" He asked.

"We're really close to Rapunzel's tower, even by walking. Which, by the way, I suggest considering no one around here knows they exist. Come on let's go!" Hiccup sighed.

"Even though my legs could use the walking, Toothless is exhausted. And it's nearly dark." Jack jumped up like a little kid.

"Oh come on! We're so close! He can hide in the tower and we can rest there." Hiccup looked at Toothless who was on the verge of

sleep.

"Sorry Jack, I really don't think Toothless can make it. He needs to sleep. I really should as well." Hiccup's broken arm had begun to hurt quite a bit, and his other arm could use the rest from flying Toothless. Jack huffed.

"Fine." He settled in a tree and dozed back off to sleep, worried like crazy for Punzel. _Please let her be alright Manny. Please.
_

-Somewhere not too far from the beach-

Rapunzel woke up, this time in a dark stingy place. She heard music and laughter and smelled an awful raw stench of sweat mixed with alcohol. Her shoulder was still in an immense amount of pain. She saw it had been clean and bandaged, though her dress was completely ruined. Damn it. She wanted to cry, she never should have left the tower. Mother was right, I am too weak. Her hand good hand was now chained to a rock, her bad arm was tied in a sling, there was nothing she could do to move. She heard a voice laugh. It wasn't Flynn's.

"Hey girly. You're pretty decent looking." She saw a giant muscular man step out of the shadows. That's what Flynn must have met by dragonsâ€¦ they were monstrous men. He took a stop towards her.

"Stay away from me!" She shouted and spit in his direction, it was all she could muster. The man narrowed his eyes, he wasn't actually going to do anything to her. He'd sooner add murder to his resumÃ© than pedophile. He slapped her.

"You keep your mouth shut. You hear me?" The slap sent Rapunzel's head into a rock, and unconscious she went. Once again into an awful nightmarish sleep her last thought was praying Jack or her Mother would save her. God knows she couldn't save herself. Little did she know Jack was just one town over, with every answer to every question she'd had since she saw the boy on the beach with the beautiful dragon.

Haha what did I tell you lovelies? I'm in a writing mood! Well that's two chapters in one day, you MIGHT get another one tomorrow but I need to plan out the rest of this story, I know exactly where I want it to go I just have to lead it there. Review please! :D

10. Hidden

"Hiccup wake up!" Jack yelled in the tired viking's ear. Toothless bounced around in the ocean catching his breakfast. Hiccup opened his eyes groggily. He sat up and wiped the sand from his face. Toothless had been his pillow, but the young dragon was hungry. So went Hiccup's face into the sand. He'd had a dreamless night, unlike the first he spent on this beach.

"Just let me get some water on my face and we can go Jack." Jack huffed in annoyance, for all he knew Rapunzel could be dead. "Why don't you go get something from her tower so Toothless and trace her

scent." Jack had had Pascal with him the whole time, Pascal was hiding in Jack's hood. He took the little chameleon out and put him near Toothless who eyed the little reptile cautiously. He took a whiff and was already on alert.

"Come on bud, let's find her." Hiccup nuzzled Toothless who bounded off into the forest. Jack flew along side the dragon while Hiccup raced to keep up.

"Slow down!" He yelled. Toothless turned around and scooped Hiccup up so he was sitting on his back. They ran at lightning speed for about ten minutes. Then they reached a small cabin. They heard men laughing hysterically and smelled alcohol. Hiccup wrinkled his nose. It reminded him of Gobber's nights after Stoick's death.

"Why would Rapunzel be in there?" Jack was puzzled. Hiccup had a sick feeling, the kind of men who went into these joints weren't honorable.

"Maybe it wasn't by choice." Hiccup suggested sadly. Jack wheeled around frightened. Not Rapunzelâ€¦ She's so innocent.

"I'm going in. Go hide Toothless somewhere." Hiccup nodded and brought Toothless around back. Jack waited for someone to open the door and slid in before it closed. He knew no one would be able to see him. Pascal hid in his hood completely camouflaged. Jack spotted a door almost hidden within the wall. It almost looked like a painting. He figured all the men where too drunk to notice a door open by itself so he ripped open the door and was met with a ghastly sight.

Rapunzel awoke, her shoulder and head throbbing. She grimaced as she saw the two monstrous men towering over her.

"How old are you girly?" One of them asked. She refused to answer. He kicked her in the stomach with a steel toed boot. She winced in pain. Crying she told him eighteen. He smirked.

"Well let's have some fun then." They closed in on her as she screamed. Rapunzel unconscious again after the horrifyingly traumatic experience, Flynn returned.

"I got the money boys, the royals want her tonight." The dragons smirked at Flynn.

"Well that's good for them, but she ain't leaving this cave alive." Flynn smirked.

"Got it boys, I'll be going now, here's your money." Flynn started walking away when they grabbed his collar and ripped him backwards throwin him against the rock formation next to the violated bleeding princess.

"Not so fast pretty boy. You're going to take care of it. We can't have her telling anyone about this whole ordeal. Take her out back and take care of it. Or else." Frightened Flynn snuck her out of the bar and took her around back. He failed to notice Toothless and Hiccup. Jack tried to help her, but his hand body and anything he touched went right through the men. Resting her against a tree Flynn wanted to make it quick. He didn't expect the princess to wake

up.

"Jackâ€¦" She whispered. Jack's eyes were welled with tears as he screamed for Hiccup and Toothless. Flynn raised the knife to Rapunzel's throat right before he could slide it across something knocked him back into a tree. Flynn's head was pounding from the impact but his blurred vision managed to make out the shape of a dragon and a viking who seemed to be wielding a sword made of fire. Hiccup ran over to Jack and Rapunzel. While Toothless kept Flynn back. Jack had Rapunzel's head in his lap as she drifted in and out of consciousness. He had her hair wrapped around her entire body.

"Come on Rapunzel, sing!" He kept yelling to her. Hiccup put a hand on his shoulder.

"Jack, I don't think there's much we can do for her now." Jack just kept crying into Rapunzel. Meanwhile, Flynn was wielding the knife towards Toothless. He had actually managed to cut him. Angering a Night Fury is never a smart decision. With one plasma blast the world saw the end of Flynn Rider under any name. Toothless walked over to Hiccup, Jack and Rapunzel with sad eyes.

"Come on bud, let's get her out of here." They all ran to the beach as fast as they could. Somewhere along the way, Rapunzel drew her last breath. When they reached the beach Jack took her body and sat, secluded behind the rocks while Hiccup waited for him to make his peace. He knew exactly how Jack was feeling and what he was going through, he also knew nothing he could say would help, it would only anger him further.

Jack clutched onto Rapunzel hysterical.

"Bring her back. Please Manny! She would be perfect for this life, she's smart and she could heal. She brings warmth and light wherever she goes. Save her." He continued crying as a monstrous wave crashed over them sweeping Rapunzel out from his grip. "NO!" He screamed jumping to dive in after her when Hiccup pulled him back. "Let go of me!"

"Jack, look!" A beam of light shot up through the ocean glittering like golden specks of sunlight. The entire ocean stood still as Rapunzel's body was lifted out of it. Her golden hair shimmered and she seemed to radiate sunlight. Hiccup and Jack were blinded. She opened her eyes, which were no longer a forest green, they were a beautiful gold. She slowly descended into the water. Jack saw her struggling to swim and jumped in pulling her to shore. Hiccup helped him bring her over to where Toothless was. She sputtered out water and stared at the two of them.

"Wh-Who are you?" She asked meekly. Jack sighed sadly, this had happened to him as well when Manny chose him.

"My name is Jack Frost, this is Hiccup and his dr-"

"Dragon! I know youâ€¦" Rapunzel sat up and poked around Toothless curiously. Hiccup took a good look at the girl for the first time, she had meters and meters of flowing golden hair. His eyes widened.

"You're the girl who saved Toothless that night. Aren't you?" He asked. Rapunzel's face twisted in confusion.

"I don't quite remember, but I think so." Hiccup looked at Jack quizzically.

"She doesn't remember who she is or what her past life was. I don't remember mine either. I don't know how to make her remember either." As relieved as Jack was that she was alive, he was also saddened. He'd lost his best friend.

"That's terrible." Hiccup murmured watching Rapunzel and Toothless eye each other curiously. Jack approached her and took her to the side explaining why she was the way she was now, and the powers she possessed. He told her of their friendship and Pascal, whom he took out of his hood. He left out the gory details of her death. Nothing sparked Rapunzel's memory.

"I'm sorry to interrupt but Rapunzel, I just wanted to thank you for saving Toothless' life. I lost a lot that night, I couldn't bear to lose him too." She nodded still trying to remember the fuzzy details of that night. Jack and Hiccup walked away to give Rapunzel time to process. The night fell and the confused Rapunzel curled up next to Toothless and fell asleep. The saddened Jack perched himself in a tree and a tired Hiccup stood by the shore missing Astrid and his father terribly. He even missed his mother who he held so few memories of. Hiccup sighed.

Jack stared at the viking who held so much sadness in his eyes. He was so grateful to Hiccup for finding Rapunzel. He wanted to repay him in anyway he could. He was well aware that the one thing he knew of value to Hiccup would most possibly be the end in any sort of friendship the two had. He'd already lost Rapunzel. He knew it was the right thing to do though. He flew down from the perch and landed on a rock not too far from Hiccup, just far enough in the water so Hiccup couldn't hurt him though.

"Hey Hic, thank you." Jack started. Hiccup nodded, his mind was nowhere near that beach. A significant amount of awkward time passed and Jack coughed. Hiccup looked up at him.

"Oh uh sorry Jack, what's on your mind?" He asked. Jack sucked in a deep breath.

"I have to tell you something Hiccup." Hiccup stared at Jack quizzically.

"What do you know?" He asked.

"I know where your mother is."

Oh plot twist! Hehe I finally mapped out all the chapters and I'll be updating at least once a week lovelies :) Review please!

End
file.